

City of Reading
City Council
Work Session
Monday, July 21, 2008

Council Members Present

Vaughn Spencer, President
Stephen Fuhs, District 1
Dennis Sterner, District 3

Others Present

R. Hottenstein
L. Kelleher
C. Younger
R. Albert

Call to Order

President of Council Vaughn Spencer called the work session to order at 7:00 pm. He noted the light agenda for this evening and explained the issues under heading IV were addressed in the Public Works Session held previously.

Managing Director's Report

Mr. Hottenstein highlighted the report distributed to Council at the meeting covering the following:

- City of Reading Tennis Program Schedule
- The schedule for National Night Out on Tuesday August 5th from 6-8
- Neighborhood meetings on the City's Financial forecast

Mr. Fuhs requested a report on the City's diversity efforts on staff training and hiring. He also requested a report on activities of the City Wide Diversity Board, Police Diversity Board, and Fire Diversity Board.

Gang Prevention Steering Committee

Ray Albert, chair of the Gang Prevention Steering Committee reported that this volunteer group is a part of the 222 Anti-Gang-Grant anti-gang

grant provided by the state. He stated that the group is focused on prevention, intervention, and re-entry. He explained that the state grant is focused on gang prevention. He explained that the Steering Committee first focused their efforts on information gathering and assessing the uncovered risk factors and service needs. He explained that surveys were obtained from students from 6th, 8th, 9th, and 10th grades.

After studying the results the Committee moved to create the GREAT Program and a comprehensive graffiti removal program. He added that the County has funded a three year program to remove graffiti and educate parents and students. He described the educational forms held and the other educational outreach methods used.

Mr. Albert reported that the 761 students sampled reported that:

- 35% of the students have a family member involved in criminal activity
- 25% of the students said that a family member or friend has spent time in prison
- 35% report drug and alcohol addictions in families
- 18% associate with someone who carries a hand gun (42% of those admit to carrying a weapon and participating in gang activities)

Mr. Albert noted that the group believes that the solution of the normal solid family structure has contributed to these statistics.

Councilor Fuhs inquired how the group will sustain efforts focused on 4th and 5th grade students. Mr. Albert replied that group is still in its planning stage. He noted that the Mayor is seeking grant assistance to implement a larger program.

Mr. Albert described the graffiti removal plan which will provide assistance in the City.

Respectfully submitted by,

Linda A. Kelleher, City Clerk